



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge  
Brigham City, UT  
Waterbird/Raptor Survey  
February 26-27 2014

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on February 26-27, 2014 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers and volunteers Frank and Josee Kee with 29 species recorded. Though the calendar still indicates winter, recent weather has been more spring-like with above average temperatures, resulting in ice free conditions on large areas of refuge wetlands. The refuge is typically >75% frozen in late February in most years. Numbers for almost all waterfowl species were well above average for late February and were more indicative of numbers that would be seen in mid-March. An all-time record count of 6000 snow goose was recorded. Even though thousands of snow geese are in the local area in late winter and early spring, few are actually observed on the refuge. The number of bald eagles surveyed was higher than average for late February. A highlight was a greater yellowlegs which is the earliest record for that species for this survey.

Tundra swan	16,896	Ring-necked duck	495
Snow goose	6,000	Ruddy duck	1,547
Canada goose	953	Unknown ducks	1,640
Mallard	6,466	Pied-billed grebe	1
Northern pintail	44,845	Double-crested cormorant	96
American green-winged teal	11,945	Great blue heron	45
Northern shoveler	8,199	Killdeer	5
Gadwall	3,203	Greater yellowlegs	1
American wigeon	6,737	Ring-billed gull	127
Canvasback	5,550	California gull	2,209
Redhead	2,218	Herring gull	1
Lesser scaup	746	American coot	4,478
Common goldeneye	1,486	Bald eagle	29
Bufflehead	207	Northern harrier	5
Common merganser	6	Rough-legged hawk	9

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